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A word should be said for the appendix, containing as it does an admirable "Summary of the Navigation Laws of the United States." It is the only summary of the kind so far published, and one which should be of great aid to those who have to deal with a subject which is in so much confusion, owing to the form of its growth through the many revisions and re-enactments of Congress.

William J. Conlen.

Philadelphia, Pa.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL LAW. By John Eugene Harley, Assistant Professor of Political Science in the University of Southern California. With an Introduction by Theodore Marburg. Oxford University Press, New York City, 1921, pp. ix, 127.

In this little book Professor Harley has attempted to set out, as he expresses it, the effect of the League of Nations on International Law. It would be more accurate to say the effect of the operation of the League of Nations on International Law. The League itself can have no effect at all; it must function as an organization before it can make any impression. This may sound hypercritical, but it is just the criticism which may be leveled at current international legal writings. They are wanting in accuracy and logical precision. The learned professor has therefore been led into the obvious error of over-estimating the potency and effectiveness of the League and ignoring the practical question of whether it does or will survive as an effective agency in international life.

The conclusions of the book are well summarized in Chapter XI, somewhat as follows: The defects in International Law prior to the adoption of the League of Nations were: (1) Lack of agreement as to correct conception of International Law; (2) Inadequate methods of developing International Law; (3) Unwillingness of the nations of the world to join together in giving effect to the law and providing sanctions to uphold it; (4) Inadequate machinery for administering international law and settling disputes between nations; (5) Doubt whether the theory of international law formulated in the seventeenth century was adequate for the world of 1920. The learned author concludes that the Covenant of the League of Nations cured these defects, upon which we may observe: (1) It is impossible to see how the Covenant can or will reconcile the fundamental theories of International Law which are matters of individual opinion and can only be resolved by argument, analysis and reasoning, if they can ever be resolved at all. To give the Covenant such an effect would outdo German control of thought in its palmy days. (2) The statement that the Covenant removes the remaining defects is simply saying that because the Covenant has been entered into therefore the League does and will have sufficient power to control international conduct, an assumption entirely unwarranted by any facts existing in the world today.

It is difficult to understand what the professor means by the "new" international law. International law as a system, science and inquiry into

international conduct is centuries old, and the change in a few rules would not warrant us in speaking of a new international law.

We find all the conventional forms of the international law writers observed. We are informed on the first page that Grotius is well called the father of international law, statement which seems essential to the completeness of any treatise on this subject. We also find the usual appendix comprising about one-half of the work, and containing reprints of documents already accessible elsewhere. This habit of reprinting undoubtedly reduces the labor of the author but seems to be of no other use.

The book is an enthusiastic expression of the impractical and visionary, although highly ideal, in international relations. War is one of the vices of mankind and cannot be expected to cease until the underlying causes of war, to wit, ignorance, selfishness, international rivalries and the like, have been removed. To accomplish this will require an education of the common people of the world extending probably over centuries. To say that it has been accomplished by a writing on a few pieces of paper is to fly in the face of reason and all human experience.

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COMMERCIAL LAW CASES. By Harold L. Perrin, Professor and Head of the Department of Law of the College of Business Administration, Boston University; and Hugh W. Babb, Assistant Professor of Law at the College of Business Administration, Boston University. George H. Doran Company, New York City, 1921, 2 vols., pp. xxi, 536, xv, 414.

Another case book. Intended by the authors to cover two years' work in Commercial Law, it might very well serve for a three years' course. In fact, it is most unlikely that it could be handled by most colleges in fewer than three years. From a student's point of view, a book that promises such long usage has much in its favor. The cost of law books is always a hardship; hence, the outlay of only \$7.50 at the beginning of a student's course for a book to be used during two or three years is an important asset of this new publication, one that should recommend it to the teaching staff, other things being equal. Moreover, it is noteworthy from an academic standpoint in its presentation of a whole business law course within the cover of a single book. A single-book presentation of business law awakens in the student a sense of the unity and continuity of the subject as can never be done by a series of case books on specific subdivisions.

This kind of treatment of legal subjects for non-legal students is greatly needed. The law is approached too technically and too specifically in most business schools of collegiate grade. I take it that the purpose of law in these schools is not primarily to give the students the discipline afforded by legal training, any more than it is to make lawyers of them. A business law course in a business school should have two aims; to give the student such a general knowledge of the law as he has of history or of economics; and, secondly, to give him such definite, practical information as